

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 158599
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHREWS:JLP
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN
S/S:S. GOLDSMITH

-----096480 080330Z /62

O 080318Z JUL 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158599

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON BELIZE-GUATEMALA DISPUTE

1. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED SEPTTEL WITH TEXT OF JOINT
BRITISH-GUATEMALA COMMUNIQUE.UNLESS YOU BELIEVE INADVIS-
ABLE, IN WHICH CASE PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST, YOU ARE
REQUESTED SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD
AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. USG BELIEVES GUATEMALA HAS ACTED WITH GREAT RE-
SPONSIBILITY DURING TALKS. COMMUNIQUE,WHICH WE UNDERSTAND
WAS SIGNED, IS EVIDENCE OF PROVISIONAL SUCCESS. WE ARE
PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT AN EARLY VISIT BY ROWLANDS TO
GUATEMALA IS PLANNED TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO
DEFUSE CURRENT TENSIONS.

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B. NOW THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATION IS ASSURED AND PRO-
POSALS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE ARE BEING STUDIED, WE FEEL IT IS
PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT BOTH SIDES EXERCISE UTMOST
RESTRAINT, PARTICULARLY IN BORDER AREA. WE HAVE EMPHA-
SIZED THIS TO BRITISH NEGOTIATOR ROWLANDS, WHO HAS ASSURED
US THAT HE FULLY AGREES AND IS SO ADVISING HIS GOVERNMENT.

C. SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE MEETING WITH MOLINA
1430 JULY 8 AT LATTER'S REQUEST, AND INTENDS TO COMPLI-
MENT HIM ON HIS CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. BEGIN FYI:

ROWLANDS INFORMED US IN PRI-
VATE SESSION WITH MOLINA, WITHOUT PRESENCE OF BELIZEANS,
PROPOSAL OF SETTLEMENT CEDING TERRITORY SOUTH OF MOHO
RIVER AS WELL AS THE CAYS. HE TOLD MOLINA IF GUATE-
MALANS WOULD GIVE HIM INDICATION THIS COULD BE FIRM
BASE OF SETTLEMENT, HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CON-
VINCE BELIZEANS TO ACCEPT THIS.

MOLINA REACTED PESSIMISTICALLY, BUT ENDED UP AGREE-
ING TO TRY TO SELL THIS AS PART OF OVERALL PACKAGE (PRE-
SUMABLY INCLUDING SEAWARD CONCESSIONS AND FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE). ONE OF THE GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATORS, IN
WHAT WAS PROBABLY A PERSONAL INITIATIVE, PROPOSED SOME-
WHAT DIFFERING BOUNDARY FOR CESSION SOUTH OF MONKEY RIVER.

STILL IN PRIVATE SESSION, ROWLANDS AND MOLINA
AGREED THAT MEDIATION MIGHT BE USEFUL IF END RESULT WAS
AGREED ON PRIVATELY IN ADVANCE.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION WAS CLEARLY OF SECONDARY IN-
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TEREST TO GUATEMALANS; THEY NOTED THAT PIPELINE BRITISH
HAD SUGGESTED ALREADY FINANCED. BRITISH THREW UP POSSI-
BILITY OF PORT PROJECT, BUT REFRAINED FROM INDICATING
AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

ROWLANDS INDICATED THAT HE HOPES TO VISIT GUATEMALA
TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE (SEPTTEL)
IN WEEK TO TEN DAYS IF ALL GOES WELL.

WE DO NOT YET HAVE INDICATION OF GUATEMALAN NEGOT-
IATORS MOOD OTHER THAN BRITISH COMMENT THAT MOLINA WAS
UNEXPECTEDLY FORTHCOMING AND THAT TALKS WERE FRIENDLY.
BRITISH WERE JUBILANT, HOWEVER, AND FEEL THAT IN ABSENCE
SOME MISSTEP ON BORDER WHICH COULD CAUSE FIGHTING, TEN-
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SOLUTION NOW APPEARS POSSIBLE.

ROWLANDS PLANS SEND CABLE EVENING JULY 7 ASKING THAT
HARRIERS BE KEPT WELL BACK FROM BORDER. BRITISH NOW
BELIEVE THAT REENFORCEMENT WAS PROBABLY A FAVORABLE
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AND MAINTAINED IT WAS NOT INTENDED AS SUC'. THEY FEEL

THAT MOLINA SHOWED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT FRIGATE AND OTHER
SHIPS, BUT LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT HARRIERS WHEN HE WAS, AT

1500 JULY 7, INFORMED OF THEIR ARRIVAL. END FYI.

ABOVE FYI INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY PROPOSEL REGARD-
ING MOHO RIVER, SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. VANCE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158599

NODIS

FOL REPEAT STATE 158599 ACTION GUATEMALA LONDON BELIZE
DTD 8 JUL.

QUOTE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK
To: GUATEMALA LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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